

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT L 00943 191108Z

55

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /090 W

----- 122469

R 190935Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6228

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RH WA MP US UNGA UNSC PINT

SUBJECT: RAMGOOLAM EXPRESSES OPTIMISM ABOUT A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

1. ON HIS RETURN TO MAURITIUS OCTOBER 17 FROM BRIEF VISIT TO UNGA, WHICH HE ADDRESSED AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF OAU, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM SAID AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC REGARDING A RAPID AND SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT TO THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF RHODESIA WHICH IS TO BEGIN SOON WILL FIND A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO EVERYONE AND THAT IT WILL BE REACHED WITH "PEACE AND DIGNITY." RAMGOOLAM ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD SELECTED MAURITIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER AND COLONEL GARBA, THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AS OAU OBSERVERS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. SPEAKING ABOUT NAMIBIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT L 00943 191108Z

HAD PROPOSED TO THE UN THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BE

HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE POPED THAT A RAPID SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND FOR NAMIBIA, "WHERE THE LIBERTY OF THE PEOPLE CANNOT BE RELEGATED VERY LONG TO AN INFERIOR POSITION." HE SAID HE HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS ON NAMIBIA WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH THE OAU SECRETARY GENERAL AND WITH THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA, SEAN MCBRIDE, BUT AT THIS STAGE HE COULD NOT DIVULGE ANYTHING ABOUT THESE TALKS. RAMGOOLAM SAID THAT EVERYONE IS SATISFIED WITH THE STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR, "ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE METHODS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYBODY." THE ESSENTIAL THING, HE SAID, IS THAT A SOLUTION BE FOUND AND "ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL."

3. ASKED IF THE CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA MIGHT BE HELD IN MAURITIUS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT HAD TO BE HELD IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, FOR EXAMPLE THE UN OFFICE IN GENEVA, WHICH HE CALLED "THE APPROPRIATE PLACE." HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE AN HONOR FOR MAURITIUS TO HOST THE CONFERENCE BUT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE HE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU IS "INVOLVED" IN THE QUESTION. SPEAKING OF DR. KISSINGER, RAMGOOLAM STATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD "DONE A GOOD JOB."

4. RAMGOOLAM DECLINED TO ANSWER REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER HE INTENDS TO DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK, AS HAS BEEN WIDELY RUMORED. HE PARRIED THEIR QUESTIONS WITH HUMOR AND IRONY, AND WOULD SAY NOTHING BEYOND THE SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT "THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE DISSOLVED ONE OF THESE DAYS."

KEELEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTL00943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760391-1171
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761037/aaaabfva.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAMGOOLAM EXPRESSES OPTIMISM ABOUT A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, WA, MP, US, UNGA, UNSC, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006